

DOTHAN EAGLE

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"For I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" — Genesis 37:17

\$1.00

Today: Areas of fog, Cloudy

High 81°
Low 58°



JACKSON COUNTY

Man threatens deputy with knife, hits patrol car during chase **page 2A**



8A

Russians charged with meddling in 2016 race



1B

Georgiana sprints past Houston County

Residential power usage massive in January

Dothan officials outline ways to cushion blow of large utility bills

BY JEREMY WISE
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With Dothan Utilities customers receiving larger-than-normal electric bills for January, city officials took time Friday to explain the spikes and offer tips for relief.

"The higher utility bills are of concern to our citizens and are of concern to us," Mayor Mark

Saliba said. "We do care and are compassionate about those who are struggling with their utility bills. We have really had adverse weather conditions. Around two weeks or so, we had below (30-degree) weather, so increase in usage has been the biggest concern."

According to figures from Dothan Utilities, residential usage of power jumped to 38,707,381

kilowatt-hours in January, up from more than 31.2 million kilowatt-hours in January 2017 — with only 167 additional residential meters in place. On average, each residential meter recorded an extra 282 kilowatt-hours in January 2018 than it did in January 2017.

Billy Mayes, DU director, said the city's rates have not changed in the last four to five months —

only the usage did. The utility's residential usage rose almost 7.5 million kilowatt hours last month, or the amount of electricity needed to power an additional 5,000 homes at January's usage rate, Mayes added.

Saliba said the spike identifies a larger issue that he and the city commissioners hope to address soon — housing stock. Many homes in Dothan are older and have poorer insulation, which causes more electricity to be

used when extreme temperatures impact the area.

"We need more options for affordable housing," he said. "I think it's also time to put on the table the topic of landlord/tenant ordinances or renters' policies. We need to make sure our citizens have the best possible options for housing so that their utility bills aren't as high as they are."

See **POWER**, Page 3A

UNDER CONSTRUCTION



JAY HARE/DOTHAN EAGLE

Workers for Midsouth Paving Inc. repave a portion of South Oates Street on Friday. The workers are expected to advance to the northern portion of the popular thoroughfare next week.

Dothan High



JAY HARE/EAGLE FILE

Pictured is Dothan High School.

15-year-old student arrested after threats to 'shoot up' school

From staff reports

A 15-year-old Dothan High School student has been arrested for making terrorist threats after fellow students reported the threats to authorities.

According to the Dothan Police Department, Dothan High School staff members notified school resource officers Thursday after students raised concerns. Police indicate students heard the juvenile say he was going to "shoot up the school."

Police took the juvenile into custody and transported him to the Dothan Police Department for questioning. He was subsequently arrested for making terrorist threats.

The juvenile has not been identified because he is a minor.

See **THREAT**, Page 3A

Faith

Missionary shares church-planting method

BY JEREMY WISE
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Ying Kai has visited several countries in his lifetime, and no matter where he goes, he encounters one simple truth.

"These four or five years training in the whole world over 30, 40 different countries, we find out that every people group is the same — they all need Jesus' love," he said while visiting Dothan Friday.

Kai, a native of Taiwan, has been a force in the Christian church in his lifetime — developing the Training for Trainers (T4T) method for planting churches. The program has been credited for at least 2 million baptisms and the birth of an untold amount of churches, although some estimate the number surpasses 100,000.

While the name is simple, the method is even simpler in concept, Kai said. He said God revealed six truths in Jesus Christ's Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) — the cornerstone verses of evangelistic movements — and paired that with the verses that recount the descending of the Holy Spirit in Acts 1 and 2.

It is a method he is sharing today from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday at 10:45 a.m. at Selma Baptist Church. He also spoke at Servants Church, which meets Thursday nights at Grace Point Church on Headland Avenue, and Selma Baptist Friday night.

"Jesus' Great Commission is in Matthew 28. That is knowledge, but in Acts Chapter 1, when Jesus ascends to the heavens, He gave His disciples another



JEREMY WISE/DOTHAN EAGLE

Ying Kai, a longtime missionary in Asia, holds his book "Training for Trainers" while visiting Dothan Friday.

important commandment," Kai said. "He said, 'You need to wait in Jerusalem until you receive the power of the Holy Spirit. You have knowledge, but you cannot do anything without power of the Holy Spirit.'"

Kai said God revealed the method to him as he and his wife, Grace, prepared for a stint as International Mission Board missionaries in China in 2000. At one of their training sessions in Singapore, they were asked to develop a three-year master plan for the region they would be serving.

The task proved to be daunting for the Kais, who were about to live in a region with a population of 20 million — mostly factory workers.

"So we prayed and asked God, and He gave us an answer," Ying Kai said. "Every day we prayed, and then we studied the Bible until one day (at) midnight, we just find out the answer in Jesus' Great Commission."

In the verses, the Kais discovered an emphasis to make disciples of Christ,

See **FAITH**, Page 3A

Local shootings prompt Housing Authority to review policy

BY JEREMY WISE
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While a couple of recent firearms incidents at Johnson Homes have only resulted in one injury, they have caused Dothan Housing Authority officials to reevaluate some policies.

"It causes a host of problems when law enforcement identifies over 25 rounds were fired," said Sam Crawford, DHA executive director.

The incidents involved visitors to the property and not residents, which is why DHA is taking a two-pronged approach to controlling the issue at the complex located off Kinsey Road near Carver Magnet School.

Officials have first stepped up security. While the authority has had a partnership with Dothan Police where officers stay at or near DHA complexes during their shifts, Crawford said his organization has hired extra security officers — including off-duty police officers — to provide security 24

See **PROMPT**, Page 3A



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